

# The Louisiana Veteran



LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

## Louisiana Veterans Honor Medal

First Quarter 2010



In 2008, the Louisiana Legislature passed Act 695 which established the Louisiana Veteran Honor Medal. The stated purpose of the Act was to design a program which would honor and recognize Louisiana Veterans for their service to our country. LDVA was charged with developing and implementing a program that would do just that for our Louisiana Veterans.

Beginning in January 2009, LDVA in partnership with the Louisiana National Guard and Adjutant Major General Bennett C. Landreneau began hosting Louisiana Honor Medal Ceremonies across the state. To date, nearly 9,000 Louisiana Veterans have received their Louisiana Honor Medal at close to 50 statewide events.

When LDVA first designed the Louisiana Veterans Honor Medal program, it did so with the spirit of

Act 695 in mind – the spirit of honoring and thanking. At the ceremonies, Louisiana Veterans are awarded their Medals by the highest ranking Louisiana official, our Governor, along with the Louisiana Adjutant General, LDVA Sec. Lane Carson, Louisiana Legislators and other dignitaries, who are all there to personally shake the hand of every Veteran and give them the thanks they justly deserve.

It takes time to plan and organize these events and unfortunately, some of our Veterans whether due to illness, age or immobility are unable to attend Medals Ceremonies. In these hardship cases, LDVA will find a way to make sure these Veterans receive their Honor Medal.

Veterans and their families are deeply touched by the personal recognition they receive at these events. LDVA is proud of this program and thanks the Louisiana Legislature for enacting the only formal Veterans recognition medal program in the country.

LDVA will continue to build upon the successes of last year into 2010 and beyond and invites elected officials and military personnel to attend one of the many 2010 Louisiana Honor Medals ceremonies scheduled in the coming months.



Top: LA Veterans stand for the Pledge of Allegiance at the March 11, 2010 Medals event held in Ringgold.

Bottom: LA Adjutant General Bennett C. Landreneau congratulates a WWII Veteran at the March 11, 2010 Medals event held in Ringgold.

Photos courtesy of LANG MSgt. Toby Valadie.

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## 2010 LDVA Proposed Legislation

<p>"Support our Veterans" license plate</p> <p>Authored by Rep. John Bel Edwards</p>	<p>Creation of a license plate in which proceeds will be dedicated to the Military Family Assistance (MFA) Fund for Veterans programs. This legislation will give citizens the opportunity to express their support for Veterans by displaying the license plate and providing the monetary support to the MFA Fund and Veterans programs through paying for the license plate.</p> <p>(New Law: R.S. 47:463.xxx)</p>
<p>Allow MFA Board to conduct "Veterans" outreach</p> <p>Authored by Rep. John Bel Edwards</p>	<p>Amend current law to allow the Military Family Assistance Board to expend funds on Veterans outreach activities. Cap this new purpose at not greater than 10% of the beginning FY balance.</p> <p>(Amends R.S. 46:121-3)</p>
<p>Free Drivers License to 50% disabled Veterans</p> <p>Authored by Rep. John Bel Edwards</p>	<p>Current law grants a free, permanent drivers license to 60% disabled Veterans. Proposal is to lower this threshold to 50% to conform with numerous Louisiana programs and benefits with thresholds at 50%. The intent is uniformity.</p> <p>(Amends R.S. 32:412.2)</p>



## Welcome Louisiana Legislators!



As Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs, I would like to welcome all of our Louisiana Senators and Representatives to the 2010 Legislative Session.

Through the tremendous support of our Louisiana Legislators, LDVA is able to offer a variety of programs and services to our Louisiana Veterans and their families.

Many LDVA programs are highlighted in this newsletter, I hope you will take the time

to familiarize yourself with the many programs LDVA offers our Veterans.

Also, please take a moment to familiarize yourself with the proposed legislation LDVA has slated for the 2010 session.

In closing, I would like to personally invite all of you to attend one of our LA Veteran Honor Medal events. We are in the process of scheduling 2010 events now and will contact you when an event is planned in your area.

Thank you for your continued support of Louisiana Veterans and I hope you will contact me if you have any questions or would like more information about LDVA.

Sincerely,

Lane A. Carson

### LDVA Featured Programs

#### **Military Family Assistance Fund**

Helps LA National Guard, Reservists & their families when military personnel are deployed for active duty.

Provides financial assistance for a variety of needs.

Is privately funded through tax deductible donations.

#### **LAVETBIZ**

Certification process for LA Veterans who own their own business.

Designed to help LA Veteran business owners secure contracts through bid processes.

**For more information about these and other LDVA programs and services, please visit [www.vetaffairs.la.gov](http://www.vetaffairs.la.gov)**

LDVA 2010  
Women Veterans  
Forum  
Honoring LA  
Women Veterans  
and Active Military

WHEN  
May 14-16

WHERE  
VA Medical Center  
2495 Shreveport  
Hwy 71 N  
Pineville, LA

For More Info  
1-877-GEAUX-VA  
(1-877-432-8982)

## LDVA VA Commission Welcomes New Member

On February 11, 2010, Mr. Lee Richard was sworn-in as LDVA VA Commission's newest member. A resident of Lake Charles, Mr. Richard represents Disabled American Veterans on the Commission.

The Veterans Affairs Commission is charged with advising LDVA and the Governor on matters pertaining to the welfare of Veterans.

Commission members are appointed by the Governor and serve six year terms. The Commission meets on a quarterly basis.



*L to R: Sec. Lane Carson, Carroll Knott, Charles Huggins, John Abshire, Sulanda Lonnette, Precilla Wilkewitz, Lee Richard, Richard Garner, Russell Henry and Don Beasley (back).*

## LDVA 2010 Veterans Outreach Tour

Throughout the month of March, LDVA conducted its first Veterans Outreach Tour.

During the tour, Secretary Carson visited communities across the state in an effort to raise awareness about LDVA programs and services.

Sec. Carson also highlighted the efforts of the 60 LDVA Veteran Services Officers who assist LA Veterans and their families in obtaining the benefits they earned through their military service.

In Fiscal Year 08/09, Veteran Service Officers secured \$640 million dollars in benefits and pensions for over 37,000 LA Veterans and their families across the state.

LDVA maintains offices in all 64 Louisiana parishes to ensure that LA Veterans have local access to assistance and support.



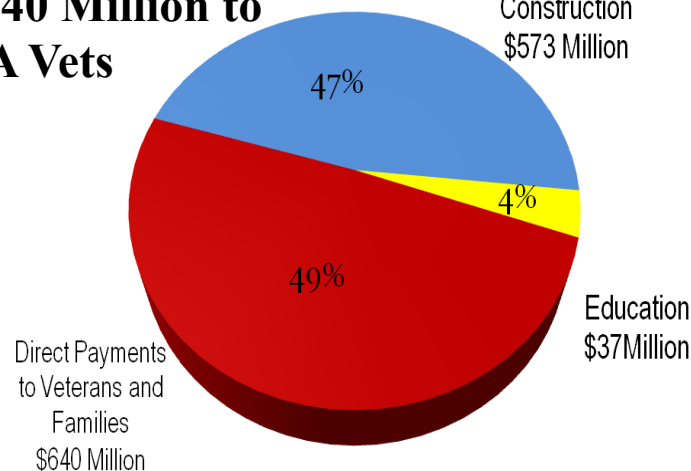
Monroe

Hospital,  
Medical,  
Construction  
\$573 Million

Bossier City

*Top: LDVA Sec. Lane Carson and Veteran Service Officers showcase the \$640 Million in direct funds for LA Veterans and their families.*

### \$640 Million to LA Vets



*Left: graph highlighting funds and services LDVA Veteran Service Officers worked to secure for LA Veterans and their families in Fiscal Year 08/09.*

## Redelivery of Services, same Quality Care at LDVA Veterans Homes

Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs (LDVA) is proud to announce the expansion of its Physician/Pharmacist Service Program into all of its Veterans Homes. This program, which has proven successful in other LDVA facilities as well as in veterans homes across the country, will help insure maximum efficiencies while still maintaining the highest level of quality care for our resident veterans.

### Consistent. Efficient. Quality Care to Our Veterans.

The Chief Medical Director, housed in the Northwest Louisiana Veterans Home in Bossier City, will continue his care of those local residents and will also provide quality control for the contract physicians at the other locations.

80% of prescription medications are now provided by VA at no charge to resident veterans. The remaining 20% of prescription medications will be managed through a centralized pharmacy with a pharmacy consultant overseeing the security and delivery of medications. The pharmacy consultant is supported by medications specialists and administrative support in all five veterans' homes.

Cost savings realized through the centralized pharmacy will be passed-on directly to resident veterans. LDVA staff is also researching ways to reduce or eliminate co-pays for medications and medical care (where co-pays apply).

More efficient operations give LDVA the resources needed to recruit and retain the level of professional, compassionate staff who provide the bulk of the daily hands-on care given to our resident veterans.



**LDVA**

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# LDVA

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

# MFA

MILITARY FAMILY ASSISTANCE

# F ★ U ★ N ★ D



Fill in a gap. Make ends meet.  
Help a military family today by  
placing a check in the box on  
your state income tax return.

They are serving in distant lands to protect our  
freedoms. Help their families back home.

It's easy. It's tax deductible.  
It's the Louisiana Way.

# LDVA

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For more information call or go to:

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**[www.vetaffairs.la.gov](http://www.vetaffairs.la.gov)**

